



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DA 15-1240
October 30, 2015

**DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION FILED FOR THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN
ASSETS OF BUDGET PREPAY, INC. D/B/A BUDGET PHONE
BY GLOBAL CONNECTION INC. OF AMERICA**

STREAMLINED PLEADING CYCLE ESTABLISHED

WC Docket No. 15-258

Comments Due: November 13, 2015

Reply Comments Due: November 20, 2015

Budget PrePay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone (Budget) and Global Connection Inc. of America (GCOIA) (together, Applicants) filed an application pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act), seeking approval to transfer certain assets of Budget to GCOIA.¹

Budget, a Louisiana corporation, is authorized to provide competitive local exchange carrier (LEC) services in 25 states.² Applicants state that it has been designated as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) to provide wireline and wireless Lifeline service to low-income consumers. GCOIA, a Georgia corporation, is authorized to provide competitive LEC service in 26 states.³ Applicants state that GCOIA is also designated as an ETC to provide wireline and wireless Lifeline service. Applicants further state that GCOIA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Global Connection Holding Corporation, which in turn is owned by L6-Global LLC. They state that approximately 76 percent of the equity of GCOIA is ultimately held by Milestone Partners Fund, a private equity firm. They state that voting or investment control over securities that the Milestone Partners Fund owns are acted upon by vote of Milestone Partners II, LLC whose current members, all U.S. citizens, are: W. Scott Warren, John P. Shoemaker, Brooke B. Hayes, and Robert G. Levine. All entities are U.S.-based.⁴

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed transaction, Budget will transfer approximately 8,700 prepaid wireline customers to GCOIA. Applicants state that these customers are located in 19 states and

¹ 47 C.F.R § 63.03; *see* 47 U.S.C. § 214.

² *Application of Budget PrePay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone and Global Connection Inc. of America for Consent to Assign Assets from a Company Holding Domestic Authority Pursuant to Section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended*, WC Docket No. 15-258, Exh. A (filed Oct. 15, 2015).

³ *Id.* at Exh. B.

⁴ *Id.* at 4 and Exh. C.

currently receive local exchange and intrastate/interstate long distance services from Budget.⁵ They further state that a significant number of these customers receive Lifeline services through Budget, and that, post-close, they will continue to receive these benefits through GCOIA at the same rates, terms, and conditions as prior to the transaction. Budget will retain its operating authorizations and continue to provide service to its other customers after the proposed transaction closes. Applicants assert that the proposed transaction is entitled to presumptive streamlined treatment under section 63.03(b)(2)(i) of the Commission's rules and that a grant of the application will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity.⁶

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Acquisition of Certain Assets of Budget PrePay, Inc. d/b/a Budget Phone by Global Connection Inc. of America, WC Docket No. 15-258 (filed Oct. 15, 2015).

GENERAL INFORMATION

The transfer of control identified herein has been found, upon initial review, to be acceptable for filing as a streamlined application. The Commission reserves the right to return any transfer application if, upon further examination, it is determined to be defective and not in conformance with the Commission's rules and policies. Pursuant to section 63.03(a) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.03(a), interested parties may file comments **on or before November 13, 2015**, and reply comments **on or before November 20, 2015**. Pursuant to section 63.52 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 63.52, commenters must serve a copy of comments on the Applicants no later than the above comment filing date. Unless otherwise notified by the Commission, the Applicants may transfer control on the 31st day after the date of this notice.

Pursuant to section 63.03 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 63.03, parties to this proceeding should file any documents in this proceeding using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS): <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>.

In addition, e-mail one copy of each pleading to each of the following:

- 1) Tracey Wilson, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, tracey.wilson@fcc.gov;
- 2) Jodie May, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, jodie.may@fcc.gov;
- 3) Jim Bird, Office of General Counsel, jim.bird@fcc.gov.

People with Disabilities: To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), 1-888-835-5322 (tty).

The proceeding in this Notice shall be treated as a "permit-but-disclose" proceeding in accordance with the Commission's ex parte rules. Persons making ex parte presentations must file a copy of any

⁵ The 19 states are: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

⁶ 47 C.F.R. 63.03(b)(2)(i).

written presentation or a memorandum summarizing any oral presentation within two business days after the presentation (unless a different deadline applicable to the Sunshine period applies). Persons making oral ex parte presentations are reminded that memoranda summarizing the presentation must (1) list all persons attending or otherwise participating in the meeting at which the ex parte presentation was made, and (2) summarize all data presented and arguments made during the presentation. If the presentation consisted in whole or in part of the presentation of data or arguments already reflected in the presenter's written comments, memoranda or other filings in the proceeding, the presenter may provide citations to such data or arguments in his or her prior comments, memoranda, or other filings (specifying the relevant page and/or paragraph numbers where such data or arguments can be found) in lieu of summarizing them in the memorandum. Documents shown or given to Commission staff during ex parte meetings are deemed to be written ex parte presentations and must be filed consistent with rule 1.1206(b), 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206(b). Participants in this proceeding should familiarize themselves with the Commission's ex parte rules.

For further information, please contact Tracey Wilson at (202) 418-1394 or Dennis Johnson at (202) 418-0809.

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